

## THE RELEVANCE OF EDUCATION IN PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF ROAD ACCIDENTS

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This paper analyses the occurrence of road accidents in Sri Lanka during the last 30 years, with special attention to the city of Colombo. Its aim is to describe causation and some of the dimensions of the problem, and to illustrate the relevance of education in producing counter measures to minimise the number of accidents and to reduce the severity of consequences. A correlation is done between the increased volume of traffic and the increased number of road accidents. This infers that the road accidents are man-induced and the prevention and reduction of accidents should be a genuine concern of the road user. The analysis of the data on the losses due to accidents shows that the prevention and the reduction of accidents are very essential from the economic as well as from the social point of view. The solution is not impossible provided that there is sufficient awareness of the gravity of accidents and the realization of the importance of the reduction and control of the occurrence of accidents to everyday life. This can be achieved through education. There is a continuous need for road user education, as each new generation should learn for itself how and why accidents should be prevented. Therefore, there should be a long term process of educating the road user than having individual campaigns and programmes which could only have short term effects. This paper highlights some of the aspects that should go into the field of education at different levels in order to reduce and to prevent the occurrence of road accidents.